GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5207
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
IMPORT OF TEA
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Tea manufacturers are finding it very difficult to compete with other major tea producing countries in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of tea imported by the country during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(d) whether most of the tea imported by the country is qualitatively inferior; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to effectively combat import of such inferior quality tea in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) &(b): Yes Sir. Indian tea manufactures are facing competition from other tea producing countries like Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia and China due to higher cost of production.

(c) : The total quantity of tea imported during the last three years are as follows:-

(Quantity in Mn. kgs) (Value in Rs. Crores)

COUNTRY	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Kenya	0.11	0.72	0.44	4.61	1.70	15.24
U.K	-	-	0.13	0.91		
U.S.A	-	-	0.04	0.67		
Indonesia	0.71	4.68	4.36	37.05	3.17	17.65
Bangladesh	0.26	1.53	0.44	2.96	0.49	2.64
Sri Lanka	0.25	2.22	0.39	2.91	2.91	17.42
Nepal	0.20	0.93	0.03	0.21	0.16	0.54
China	0.52	4.15	0.12	0.57	0.22	0.93
Vietnam	0.34	2.41	0.15	1.01	0.48	2.08
Germany	-	-	0.12	0.73	0.04	0.19
U.A.E.	-	-	Negligible	Negligible	0.09	0.45
Iran	-	-	-	- 0.49	1.74	
Sierra Leon	-	-	-	- 0.01	0.04	
Tanzania	-	-	-	- 0.02	0.15	
Others	0.22	1.15	2.71	13.08	-	-
Total	2.61	17.79	8.93	64.71	9.78	59.07

(d) & (e): No Sir. Import of tea is subject to the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) which state that no person shall import tea into India which is adulterated/misbranded and/or not in conformity with the standards laid down in Appendix B of PFA Rules.